

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action mailed October 31, 2005
Appl. No. : 10/669,756
Filed : September 24, 2003

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A folding table comprising:
a table top including having a top surface and a bottom surface extending between a first end and a second end, the table top comprising:
a first section including an upper portion and a lower portion; and
a second section including an upper portion and a lower portion, ~~the table top~~
~~being divided at a plane transverse to the table top at a point located between the first end and the second end to form a first planar portion and a second planar portion, the~~
table top configured to be selectively positionable between a working position in which the upper portion of the first section is generally aligned with the upper portion of the second section and a storage position in which the first section and the second section are folded together;
a first leg pivotally connected to the first section of the table top; ~~planar portion;~~
a second leg pivotally connected to the second section of the table top ~~planar portion;~~
a first hinge assembly connected to ~~disposed between~~ the first section of the table top
~~planar portion and the second section of the table top planar portion, the first hinge assembly~~
comprising:
a hinge pin; ~~disposed under the bottom surface of the table top and~~

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~~intersecting with the plane, the longitudinal axis of the hinge pin forming a hinge axis;~~

a first hinge connector including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top having a first end connected to the first planar portion and a second portion pivotally connected to end pivotally disposed about the hinge pin, the second portion of the first hinge connector including the first hinge connector including a cam portion; on the second end;

a second hinge connector including a first portion connected to the second section of the table top having a first end connected to the second planar portion and a second portion pivotally connected to end pivotally disposed about the hinge pin, the second hinge connector including a locking slot;

a locking pin ~~adapted to be~~ disposed in the locking slot of the second hinge connector, the locking pin movable between a locked position in which the locking pin engages the cam portion of the first hinge connector to lock the table top in the working position and an unlocked position in which the locking pin does not engage the cam portion of the first hinge connector and the table top can be moved between the working position and the storage position;

a handle connected to the locking pin, the handle being sized and

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configured to move the locking pin between the locked position and the
unlocked position; ~~portion having a first end coupled to the locking pin; and~~
a spring that is sized and configured to bias the locking pin into the
locked position. ~~having a first end biased against the locking pin.~~

2. (Original) The folding table as recited in claim 1, wherein the spring is coupled to one of the first leg or second leg.

3. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 1, wherein the cam portion further comprises a first exposed outer edge portion and a second exposed outer edge portion, wherein the locking pin engages the second exposed outer edge portion when the locking pin is in the locked position, the second exposed edge engages the locking pin and wherein when the locking pin engages the first outer edge portion when the locking pin is in the unlocked position, the first exposed edge engages the locking pin.

4. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second hinge assembly connected to the first section of the table top and the second section of the table top. ~~disposed between the first planar portion and the second planar portion.~~

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5. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 4, wherein the second hinge assembly further comprises:

a hinge pin;

a first hinge connector including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top and a second portion pivotally connected to the hinge pin, the second portion of the first hinge connector including a cam portion;

a second hinge connector including a first portion connected to the second section of the table top and a second portion pivotally connected to the hinge pin, the second hinge connector including a locking slot;

a locking pin disposed in the locking slot of the second hinge connector, the locking pin movable between a locked position in which the locking pin engages the cam portion of the first hinge connector to lock the table top in the working position and an unlocked position in which the locking pin does not engage the cam portion of the first hinge connector and the table top can be moved between the working position and the storage position;

a handle connected to the locking pin, the handle being sized and configured to move the locking pin between the locked position and the unlocked position; and

a spring that is sized and configured to bias the locking pin into the locked position;

wherein the hinge pin for the first hinge assembly and the second hinge assembly is the same structure.

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6. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 1, further comprising a first side rail and a second side rail which are spaced apart and side rail connected to the lower portion bottom surface of the first section of the table top, planar portion and a third side rail and a fourth side rail which are spaced apart and side rail connected to the lower portion bottom surface of the second section of the table top planar portion, wherein the first hinge assembly connector is connected to the first side rail siderail of the first section of the table top planar portion and the second hinge assembly connector is connected to the third side rail siderail of the second section of the table top planar portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 6, wherein the first, second, third and fourth side rails are separate members rigidly attached to the first and second sections of the table top planar portions.

8. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 6, wherein the first leg is pivotally connected to the first and second side rails side rail and the second leg is pivotally connected to the third and fourth side rails side rail.

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9. (Currently Amended) A folding table comprising:

a table top including an upper portion, a lower portion, having a top surface and a bottom surface extending between a first end and a second end, the table top including a first section and a second section that are movable between a working position and a storage position; comprising a first planar portion and a second planar portion;

a first leg pivotally connected to the first section of the table top; planar portion;

a second leg pivotally connected to the second section of the table top; planar portion;

a hinge pin disposed underneath the upper portion of the table top, the hinge pin being disposed along an axis; under the bottom surface of the table top, the longitudinal axis of the hinge pin forming a hinge axis;

a first hinge connector including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top and a second portion pivotally connected to having a first end connected to the first planar portion and a second end pivotally disposed about the hinge pin;

a second hinge connector including a first portion connected to the second section of the table top and a second portion pivotally connected to having a first end connected to the second planar portion and a second end pivotally disposed about the hinge pin; and

a locking mechanism that is sized and configured to selectively lock the table top in the working position, the locking mechanism comprising:

a cam portion ~~formed~~ on the second portion ~~end of one~~ of the first hinge connector; ~~and the second hinge connector;~~

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a locking slot ~~in formed on the other of the first hinge connector and the~~
second hinge connector; ~~that does not have the cam portion;~~

a locking pin ~~adapted to be~~ disposed in the locking slot, the locking pin
movable between a locked position in which the table top is locked in the working
position and a unlocked position in which the table top is not locked in the working
position;

a spring that is sized and configured to bias ~~having a first end biased against~~
the locking pin into the locked position; and

a handle that is connected to the locking pin, the handle being sized and
configured to move the locking pin between the locked position and the unlocked
position. ~~portion having a first end coupled to the locking pin.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 9, wherein ~~operation of the~~
~~handle selectively positions the locking pin between a locked position wherein~~ the locking pin abuts
the cam portion so as to substantially prevent relative movement ~~at least one~~ of the first hinge
connector and second hinge connector when the locking pin is in the locked position to lock the table
top in the working position; and wherein when the locking pin is in the unlocked position from
~~rotatable movement about the hinge axis, and an unlocked position wherein at least one of the first~~
hinge connector and second hinge connector can ~~is able to~~ freely rotate about the hinge pin axis.

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11. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 9, wherein the spring is coupled to ~~one of~~ the first leg or second leg.

12. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 9, wherein the cam portion further comprises a first exposed outer edge portion and a second exposed outer edge portion, wherein the second exposed outer edge portion engages the locking pin when the locking pin is in the locked position, and wherein ~~the second exposed edge engages the locking pin and in the unlocked position,~~ the first exposed outer edge portion engages the locking pin when the locking pin is in the unlocked position.

Please cancel Claims 13 and 14.

15. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 9, further comprising a first side rail and a second side rail that are spaced apart and ~~side rail~~ connected to the lower portion ~~bottom surface~~ of the first section of the table top, planar portion and a third side rail and a fourth side rail that are spaced apart and ~~side rail~~ connected to the lower portion ~~bottom surface~~ of the second section of the table top planar portion, wherein the first hinge connector is connected to the first side rail ~~siderail~~ of the first section of the table top planar portion and the second hinge connector is connected to the third side rail ~~siderail~~ of the second section of the table top planar portion.

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16. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 15, wherein the first, second, third and fourth side rails are separate members rigidly attached to the first and second sections of the table top planar portion.

17. (Currently Amended) The folding table as recited in claim 15, wherein the first leg is pivotally connected to the first and second side rails ~~side rail~~ and the second leg is pivotally connected to the third and fourth side rails ~~side rail~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A folding table comprising:

a table top including an upper portion, a lower portion, having a top surface and a bottom surface extending between a first end and a second end, the table top including a first section and a second section that are movable between a working position and a storage position; comprising a first planar portion and a second planar portion;

a first leg pivotally connected to the first section of the table top planar portion;

a second leg pivotally connected to the second section of the table top planar portion;

a hinge pin disposed underneath the upper portion of the table top, the hinge pin being disposed along an axis; under the bottom surface of the table top, the longitudinal axis of the hinge pin forming a hinge axis;

a first hinge connector including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top and a second portion pivotally connected to having a first end connected to the first

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~~planar portion and a second end pivotally disposed about~~ the hinge pin;

a second hinge connector including a first portion connected to the second section of the table top and a second portion pivotally connected to ~~having a first end connected to the second planar portion and a second end pivotally disposed about~~ the hinge pin;

a first support brace having a first end coupled to the first leg and a second end coupled to the first hinge connector;

a second support brace having a first end coupled to the second leg and a second end coupled to the second hinge connector;

a locking mechanism configured to selectively lock the table top in the working position, the locking mechanism comprising:

a cam portion disposed ~~formed~~ on the second portion ~~end~~ of the first hinge connector;

a locking slot in ~~formed on~~ the second hinge connector;

a locking pin ~~adapted to be~~ disposed in the locking slot, the locking pin movable between a locked position in which the table top is locked in the working position and a unlocked position in which the table top is not locked in the working position;

a spring that is sized and configured to bias ~~having a first end biased against~~ the locking pin into the locked position; and

a handle that is connected to the locking pin, the handle being sized and

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configured to move the locking pin between the locked position and the unlocked position. ~~portion having a first end coupled to the locking pin.~~

Please add the following new Claims:

19. (New) A folding table that is movable between a working position and a storage position, the folding table comprising:

a table top including a first section and a second section;

a first support assembly connected to the first section of the table top, the first support assembly being sized and configured to support the first section of the table top above a surface;

a second support assembly connected to the second section of the table top, the second support assembly being sized and configured to support the second section of the table top above a surface; and

a hinge assembly connected to the first section and the second section of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the first section and the second section of the table top to be moved between the working position and the storage position, the hinge assembly comprising:

a first hinge connector including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top and a second portion including an aperture;

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a second hinge connector including a first portion connected to the second section of the table top and a second portion including an aperture;

a hinge pin disposed through the aperture in the second portion of the first hinge connector and through the aperture in the second portion of the second hinge connector to connect the first hinge connector and the second hinge connector;

a locking member disposed within an opening in the second hinge connector, the locking member being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position;

a cam portion of the first hinge connector that is sized and configured to engage the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position to maintain the table in the working position; and

a biasing member that is sized and configured to bias the locking member into the locked position;

wherein when a force is applied to the locking member that is sufficient to overcome the biasing member, then the locking member may be moved from the locked position to the unlocked position to allow the table to be moved between the working position and the storage position.

20. (New) The folding table as in Claim 19, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top and a

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second portion connected to the second section of the table top, the first hinge connector being connected to the first section of the frame and the second hinge connector being connected to the second hinge portion of the frame.

21. (New) The folding table as in Claim 19, further comprising a first support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the second support assembly.

22. (New) The folding table as in Claim 19, further comprising a handle coupled to the locking member, the handle being sized and configured to move the locking member between the locked position and the unlocked position.

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23. (New) A folding table that is movable between a working position and a storage position, the folding table comprising:

a table top including a first section and a second section;

a hinge assembly including a first portion connected to the first section of the table top and a second portion connected to the second section of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the first section and the second section of the table top to be moved between the working position and the storage position;

a hinge pin connecting the first portion of the hinge assembly and the second portion of the hinge assembly;

a locking member connected to the second portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member being selectively movable between a locked position in which the locking member engages the first portion of the hinge assembly and locks the hinge assembly in a first position and an unlocked position in which the first portion of the hinge assembly can rotate relative to the second portion of the hinge assembly and the hinge assembly is unlocked; and

a biasing member that is sized and configured to bias the locking member toward the locked position.

24. (New) The folding table as in Claim 23, wherein the first portion of the hinge assembly includes an outwardly extending flange with an engaging portion, the engaging portion

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being sized and configured to engage the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position.

25. (New) A folding table that is capable of being folded between a first position and a second position, the table comprising:

- a table top including a first section and a second section;

- a first support assembly connected to the first section of the table top;

- a second support assembly connected to the second section of the table top;

- a first hinge assembly connecting the first section of the table top and the second section of the table top, the first hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the table to be moved between the first position and the second position, the first hinge assembly including a locked position and an unlocked position, the first hinge assembly comprising:

- a first hinge portion connected to the first section of the table top;

- a second hinge portion connected to the second section of the table top;

- a hinge pin connecting the first hinge portion of the first hinge assembly and the second hinge portion of the first hinge assembly;

- an engaging portion of the first hinge portion of the first hinge assembly;

- a locking member of the second hinge portion of the first hinge assembly that is movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, the locking member

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engaging the engaging portion of the first hinge portion when the first hinge assembly is in the locked position to secure the first hinge assembly in the locked position; and

a biasing member that is sized and configured to bias the locking member into a locked position; and

a second hinge assembly interconnecting the first section of the table top and the second section of the table top, the second hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the table to be moved between the first position and the second position, the second hinge assembly including a locked position and an unlocked position, the second hinge assembly comprising:

a first hinge portion connected to the first section of the table top;

a second hinge portion connected to the second section of the table top;

a hinge pin connecting the first hinge portion of the second hinge assembly and the second hinge portion of the second hinge assembly;

an engaging portion of the first hinge portion of the second hinge assembly;

a locking member of the second hinge portion of the second hinge assembly that is movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, the locking member engaging the engaging portion of the first hinge portion when the second hinge assembly is in the locked position to secure the second hinge assembly in the locked position; and

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a biasing member that is sized and configured to bias the locking member into
a locked position.

26. (New) the folding table as in Claim 25, further comprising a first support brace including a first end connected to the first hinge assembly and a second end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including a first end connected to the second hinge assembly and a second end connected to the second support assembly.

27. (New) the folding table as in Claim 25, further comprising a first support brace connected to the first hinge assembly, the second hinge assembly and the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace connected to the first hinge assembly, the second hinge assembly and the second support assembly.

28. (New) The folding table as in Claim 25, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first pair of side rails connected to the first section of the table top and a second pair of side rails connected to the second section of the table top, the first hinge assembly connected to one of the first pair of side rails of the frame and connected to one of the second pair of side rails of the frame, the second hinge assembly connected to the other of the first pair of side rails of the frame and to the other of the second pair of side rails of the frame.

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29. (New) The folding table as in Claim 25, wherein a single hinge pin connects the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion of the first hinge assembly, and connects the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion of the second hinge assembly.

30. (New) The folding table as in Claim 25, further comprising a handle connected to the locking member, the handle being sized and configured to move the locking member between the locked position and the unlocked position.